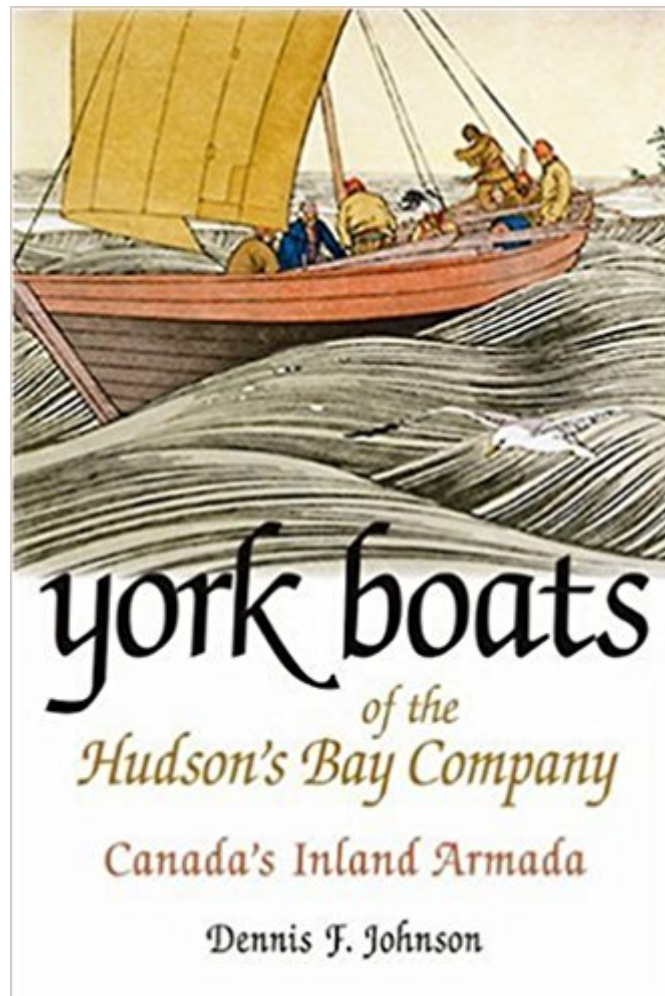




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York Boats Of The Hudson's Bay Company: Canada's Inland Armada



Synopsis

York Boats of the Hudson's Bay Company, Canada's Inland Armada tells the stories of men and boats that helped lay the foundations of Canada's western provinces and northern territories. Johnson's accomplishment serves to fill in a missing page in Canadian history - no other book tells in such detail and with such drama the history of this particularly Canadian mode of transportation and exploration. Hardly the lighthearted story of a band of merry canoeists hauling goods from port to settlement, York Boats of the Hudson's Bay Company is about the "hardest work ever seen by human beings". A triumph of human ingenuity and strength against the most severe elements. Johnson gives voice to the Metis, First Nations, French Canadians, and Orkneymen, who poled, sailed, rowed, and portaged the "newfangled boats with keels" up and down Canada's rivers. Through rapids, firestorms, freezing cold, and over impossible terrain, the York boatmen and guides worked themselves to the bone to deliver freight from York Factory on Hudson Bay to the scattered settlements within Rupert's Land. They also came to the aid of settlers, charted new territory, and found new resources throughout Canada's west and north. With 57 archival images, 11 maps, and two appendices, illustrating the York Boat story, York Boats of the Hudson's Bay Company is not just history - it's armchair adventure.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dennis F. Johnson is a retired engineer and lifelong boating enthusiast, who has traveled many of Canada's lakes and rivers by canoe, kayak, and rowboat, as well as by sail. He served as the York

boat advisor for History Television's adventure Quest for the Bay and has rowed and sailed on a York boat replica. Married with two grown children, Johnson and his wife, Judith, spend summers at their cottage in Northern Ontario.

York boats are almost completely unknown in the United States. In Canada there is some more common knowledge, but is not a topic of discussion over your morning coffee. In the time from the explorations of David Thompson until the coming of the steamboats and rapidly thereafter the railroads, the York boat was the work horse of transport of trade as Canada moved from a wilderness to a modern nation. The name York boat comes from the port of York on Hudson's Bay. Origins of the boat is somewhat a hybrid of the French Voyagers' river bateau and an open fishing dory; replacing the much more famous canoe for almost all freighting - fur trading operations. Good details about on the Internet of York boats is virtually nonexistence, In contrast this little book basically chronicles all there is to know about this versatile river transport. If you have an interest in York boats you need this book and it is a relatively interesting read in the process.

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